

THERE'S A NEW BOSS IN 'MAGIC MIKE' LAND

JADA PINKETT SMITH SCHOOLS CHANNING AND HIS STRIPPER PALS. PAGE 06



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Public vigilance needed at Fourth of July celebration

Security. Law enforcement has asked people to be alert, though there have been no specific threats.

Celebrating America's birthday means an increase of security.

The Department of Homeland Security and other federal agencies have put out nationwide warnings of potential terrorist activity where people gather in large groups to celebrate the Fourth of July. While the Homeland Security, FBI and National Counterterrorism bulletin says that there are no active plots, all law enforcement are asking people to speak up if they see suspicious activities.

"I don't want to tell Americans what to do," former CIA Deputy Director Mike Morrell said earlier this week on CBS This Morning. "But I wouldn't

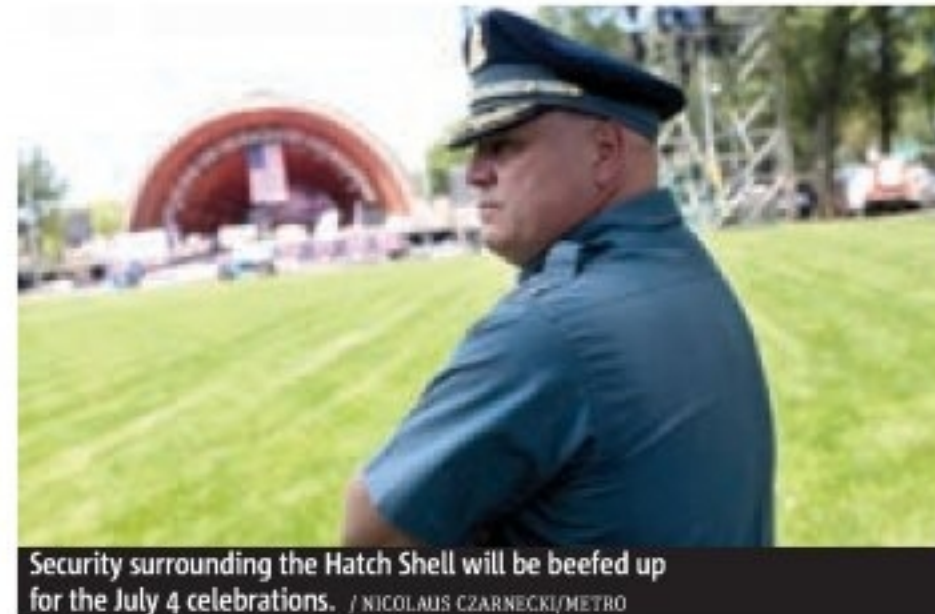
be surprised if we are sitting here next week talking about an attack over the weekend."

But local FBI agents are not as worried as the former CIA Deputy Director sounded.

"We always encourage the public to remain vigilant, but we want these events to remain authentic," Assistant Special Agent of the Counterterrorism Kieran Ramsey told Metro. "It's better to not overblow the fear of an attack out of proportion."

"We're a support role to local authorities, providing personnel and intelligence," Ramsey said. "We're there to support them in any way we can but we want these events to remain a family event. What we're trying to make sure people understand is that there is no threat to this event or the Boston area. We are filtering various, vague threats that are not credible at this time. The sky's not falling."

Citing the shooting of alleged extremist Usaama Rahim in Roslindale on June 2, Ramsey



Security surrounding the Hatch Shell will be beefed up for the July 4 celebrations. / NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

said that the intelligence at hand is prepared for keeping this weekend's festivities safe.

"We were able to prevent something because we are positioned so well," Ramsey said. "We are that vigilant and that's why that attack was thwarted. Globally, there is a threat of violence stemming from extremist but people should not be afraid to attend events like the Fourth of July fireworks."

In a statement issued after recent terrorist attacks in France, Kuwait and Tunisia, DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson said that federal agencies will continue to communicate with state and local police departments in order to ensure public safety.

"We are encouraging all law enforcement to be vigilant and prepared," Johnson said in a statement. "We will also adjust

security measures, seen and unseen, as necessary to protect the American people."

During the beginning stages of the United States v. Dzhokhar Tsarnaev trial, authorities said that the 21-year-old terrorist and his older brother, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, initially plotted to set off bombs at the Fourth of July celebration at the 2013 Charles River Esplanade. Instead, they built the pressure cooker bombs they used on April 15, 2013, completing the deadly devices earlier than they had anticipated.

"We continue to encourage all Americans to attend public events and celebrate this country during this summer season, but always remain vigilant," Johnson said.

"If You See Something Say Something" is more than a slogan."

NATE HOMAN
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Don't be this fruit: Cops warn of fireworks dangers



Law enforcement displayed illegal fireworks at North Point Park Wednesday to warn the public of the dangers of using fireworks. Cambridge fire and police officials blew up a cantaloupe as part of a safety demonstration. / NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

What better way to demonstrate the dangers of fireworks than to blow up some fruit?

That's exactly what the Cambridge police and fire officials did Wednesday afternoon to demonstrate the dangers of fireworks. If we all close our eyes and pretend that a cantaloupe and an orange were human hands, the pulp strewn across the North Point Park grass would be a bloody mess.

"We all know with the Fourth of July coming up this week, everyone is very tempted to buy fireworks because they think they add to their barbecues and parties," District Attorney Mariam Ryan said. "What we repeatedly see in these situations is suddenly the fun turns tragic. We don't even refer to them as accidents because they are totally preventable."

Last summer, a young boy in Massachusetts had a firework go off in his hand before tossing it, costing him a few fingers, broken bones, burns and hearing loss. Officials asked people to come out to

fireworks displays in order to avoid injury or property damage.

In Massachusetts, there is no way to charge a person who improperly disposes of fireworks. Ryan said that her office has teamed up with State Rep. Jay Livingstone to create laws to charge people who cause property damage or injury specifically with fireworks.

"Police and fire departments do a great job keeping us safe in Massachusetts, but when things go bad, there should be consequences," Livingstone said.

"The current state of law," Livingstone added, "does not address the bigger situation."

Cambridge Deputy Fire Chief Gerard Mahoney said that emergency responders see damage and injury every summer from improper use of fireworks, and called upon the public to leave the displays to the professional pyrotechnicians. He said that on Sunday, a boy in Nashville, Tennessee, and a man in Detroit both died in fireworks-related incidents.

NATE HOMAN

Youth Power! T Youth Pass launch called 'historic' by young activists

It was a celebration of what young people can accomplish Wednesday as activists and officials welcomed the first swipes of the MBTA Youth Pass pilot program.

In a speech, 20-year-old youth leader Kasey Shen called the launch an "historic moment," which came after nearly a decade of advocacy from a band of community organizations under the banner Youth Affordabili(T) Coalition.

"Youth power!" chanted a crowd inside Dudley Station in Roxbury.

More change is coming if government keeps young people involved, Shen said.

"Instead of just thinking, 'Oh let's invest in the future of the youth,' let's also let the youth be able to take part in this investment," she said. "It's their lives, their younger children and their schools. They do care."

YAC, as they call it, succeeded in a goal that got its start in 2007, and since then has seen protests, a sit-in and lobbying

UPass stalled

The MBTA has had difficulty rolling out another transit pass program called UPass, which would allow colleges to buy discounted passes for students in bulk. Officials last year proposed the program as a way to boost revenue and defray the Youth Pass price tag.

- The T flagged Tufts, Harvard and Northeastern universities as candidates for UPass.

of powerful city and state leaders. Starting this week, 1,500 young people selected via lottery will take bus and subway rides with a \$26 monthly pass — half the \$50 pass for Boston busses and a third of the T's \$75 all-encompassing LinkPass.

The pilot is set to last one year, and T officials have said they will analyze participants' ridership data before continuing the program.

Discounted rides give young

people more access to their city, said Felix Arroyo, Boston's chief of health and human services.

"While there are many obstacles why someone might not want to go from one neighborhood to another in this city, we're hoping with this Youth Pass, affordability is no longer one of them," Arroyo said in a speech.

The discounted fares, and associated administrative expenses, will cost the state about \$700,000, according to most recent T estimates.

Possible benefits from the program could outweigh those costs, Massachusetts Transportation Secretary Stephanie Pollack told Metro.

"Instead of treating it as just a pilot that we're subsidizing, we're treating it as a research program," she said. "We can justify the lost revenue to get that information, so we can do a better job both of designing our pass in the future and also just understanding how people use the system." **SPENCER BUELL**



Aquarium opens sea turtle rescue exhibit

The New England Aquarium on Wednesday launched a new interactive exhibit to showcase the work that turtle rescuers did this fall and winter and teach people about the turtle rescue process. This past winter, the hospital saw a record-breaking 733 sea turtles that needed life-saving care. From left, Caleb, Declan and Brendan Kennedy enjoy an interactive station in the exhibit. / NICOLAUS CZARNECKI, METRO

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Five things you

US, Cuba restoring diplomatic ties after 54 years

The United States and Cuba on Wednesday formally agreed to restore diplomatic ties that had been severed for 54 years, fulfilling a pledge made six months ago by the former Cold War enemies.

President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro exchanged letters agreeing to reopen embassies in each other's capitals, with the Cubans saying that could happen as soon as July 20.

"This is an historic step forward in our efforts to normalize relations with the Cuban government and people and begin a new chapter with our neighbors in the Americas," Obama said from the White House Rose

Garden.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, speaking from Vienna, said he would visit Havana later this summer to raise the U.S. flag outside the U.S. Embassy, currently labeled as the U.S. Interests Section and under the protection of the Swiss government.

Obama and Castro seek to relegate to history 56 years of recriminations that have predominated ever since



Fidel Castro's rebels overthrew the U.S.-backed government of Fulgencio Batista on Jan. 1, 1959.

"Cuba is encouraged by the reciprocal intention to develop respectful

and cooperative relations between our two peoples and governments," Raul Castro, 84, Fidel's younger brother and Cuban president since 2008, wrote in his letter to Obama. **REUTERS**

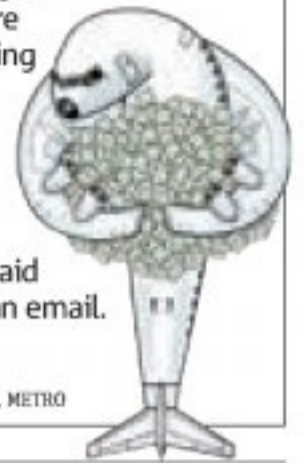
US probing if airlines collude to keep airfares high

The Justice Department is investigating whether U.S. airlines are working together to keep ticket prices high, spokeswoman Emily Pierce said.

The Associated Press, which broke the story, said that the department was trying to determine whether the airlines were colluding to grow slowly in a bid to keep airfares high.

"We are investigating possible unlawful coordination by some airlines," said Pierce in an email.

REUTERS



BILLY BECERRA, METRO

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need to know

White House lifts ban on cameras during tours

The White House lifted a 40-year-old ban on taking photos during public tours of the executive mansion on Wednesday, delighting tourists who immediately began posting pictures on social media.

First lady Michelle Obama announced the change in a video on Instagram.

"If you've been on a White House tour, you may have seen this sign," she said, holding up a placard reading, "No photos or social media allowed." "Well, not anymore," Obama said as she tore up the sign, laughing. **REUTERS**



Crowds count down to pot legalization in Oregon

Crowds counted down the minutes to midnight then lit up joints as smoking marijuana became legal in Oregon on Wednesday, and the legalization movement spread to a fourth state.

Hundreds gathered on the Burnside Bridge in downtown Portland and smoked under the glow of a neon city sign, marking the moment that the law allowed recreational use.

Oregon residents aged 21 and older can now smoke privately, grow up to four plants and possess up to eight ounces at home. **REUTERS**



TV Land pulls 'Dukes of Hazzard' amid Confederate flag debate

TV Land has pulled reruns of the 1980s sitcom "Dukes of Hazzard," the U.S. cable network said on Wednesday amid controversy over portrayals of the Confederate flag, which is notably featured on the show's "General Lee" vehicle.

Viacom Inc.-owned TV Land declined to comment on why it has pulled the reruns, but there has been growing criticism of displays of the Civil War-era flag in the wake of the shooting of nine black churchgoers in South Carolina last month.

REUTERS



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Pinkett Smith breaks it down for Channing Tatum in "Magic Mike XXL." WARNER BROS.

THE FUN STARTS HERE

The queen of 'Magic Mike XXL'

Jada Pinkett Smith injects some female dominance into the male stripper franchise — and totally steals the movie.



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Stepping into the scenery-chewing shoes of Matthew McConaughey is certainly a daunting task, but Jada

Pinkett Smith was up to the challenge. In fact, she walks into "Magic Mike XXL" and walks right away with the movie. Or struts away with it, to be more precise.

"Nobody can replace Matthew — let's just be real on that. I surely know I can't, with his fine self," Pinkett Smith says. "But I actually didn't feel the pressure, being a woman. If a man had actually played that role, that's a hard act to follow. But because I'm a woman, I knew right away that the audience's minds would have to shift, because there's just no comparison."

For the follow-up to Channing Tatum's partially autobiographical male stripper saga, McConaughey's Dallas has abandoned the boys. In desperate need of a new emcee, they turn to Pinkett Smith's Rome, who runs a private adult entertainment club catering to an exclusively female clientele.

"The role was at first written for a guy," Pinkett Smith reveals. "I was like, 'Channing, why me?' And his whole thing was like, 'Jada, I really feel like in this arena there's a sense of responsibility that we can inject in this idea.' I

just really connected to how I wanted women to feel about themselves watching this movie, and adding the energy of exaltation, celebration and inspiration."

Pinkett Smith found a willing and gracious collaborator in Tatum, who also served as a producer. "With Channing, when he wanted to bring me on board, I can almost assure you there were people in the studio and people around that were like, 'Really?' But Channing had a vision," she says. "He has a really high regard for the feminine, and he really felt like, through

dance, he understood that this brought women joy. In the first movie, he really explored what isn't so great about the industry itself, so in this movie he had more license to have more fun."

In discussing "Magic Mike XXL," Pinkett Smith takes on a tone of almost religious reverence, which may seem surprising given the subject matter, but she's very serious.

"Rome looks at it as a religion and feels like women can really, truly find themselves through that," she says. "What I brought to the table was the idea of stripping away degradation and really adding a celebratory factor in this act of exaltation. It should never be demeaning, and it should never be about dominance. And so that was really what was important to bring energetically, to kind of elevate the idea of adult entertainment."



Pinkett Smith
GETTY

"What I brought to the table was the idea of stripping away degradation and really adding a celebratory factor in this act of exaltation. It should never be demeaning, and it should never be about dominance."



Don't worry, "Infinitely Polar Bear," opening Friday, isn't as quirky as this picture. **SONY PICTURES CLASSICS**

'Infinitely Polar Bear'

Director: Maya Forbes

Stars: Mark Ruffalo, Zoe Saldana

Rating: R

• • • • •

It probably doesn't look it, but the annoying title of "Infinitely Polar Bear" secretly tells you how good it is. It comes from one of the film's two young children learning that her father, played by Mark

Ruffalo, has been diagnosed with bipolar disorder. She hears it as a variation on "polar bear." It's a sign that the film that tells her family's story — based on the experiences of its writer-director, Maya Forbes — will deal in a goofy (but no less strong) form of resilience. This should be a grim tale; it could have also gone into full-on, misjudged quirk. Instead, it lies somewhere in between — a little too upbeat at times, but always perched over despair.

The plot finds Ruffalo's Cam

having to care for his kids on his lonesome after mom (Zoe Saldana) goes off to school, and not doing a great job of it. As Ruffalo plays him, Cam is a big child himself, unable to control his emotions and most alert when he has an excuse to unleash his boyish exuberance. Ruffalo still reins him in just enough that his performance, and the film, doesn't just become a silly lark with no consequences. The film feels levelheaded, even when an upset Cam is giving his two young daughters the double middle finger. **MP**

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The "Magic Mike XXL" star is all for "equal opportunity objectification."

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At the end of 2012's "Magic Mike," Channing Tatum's reluctant stripper walked away from the biz. But he's back at it in 2015's "Magic Mike XXL," running off with the boys for a road trip to a convention for "male entertainers." One person not back is Matthew McConaughey, though Tatum says that did leave room for some other stars to take his place.

The first "Magic Mike" was based loosely on your past. Did any part of you wind up in the sequel?

A little bit. I did go to a stripper convention twice, actually. We had a road trip, but everything along the road trip in the film we've fictionalized.

Tatum back in a thong



Channing Tatum, right, with Matt Bomer, reprises his role as a stripper in "Magic Mike XXL." WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Did you miss McConaughey?

I think we all missed him. In my opinion, he was the best part of the movie. So it was definitely a little bittersweet being there without him. But I got it. He works so hard to

change people's opinion and viewpoint of him. I think he creatively had done everything he could with that role. He just didn't feel like doing that again, I guess. I get that, I understand.

But you have some new actors in this film, such as Amber Heard.

For me that was one of the lucky things — a happy accident or blessing in disguise. By not having such a big character like McConaughey, lots of other characters come to the front. So we have very strong female characters,

Amber being one of them. My favorite part is that you have a beautiful, charismatic, talented woman in the part, and she doesn't have to be a romantic interest. Girls always seem to be sort of defaulted into that role. And I think that one of the most fascinating things that we did with her character was that Mike and this girl meet on the road. It had some sort of context but it's not a sexual one.

Women in Hollywood have to conform to a certain image: young

and skinny. Do you think men are getting the same pressure?

I don't know. I think there are all types. I think in reality things are different and not like in movies and magazines. I know a lot of women that like burly lumberjack-looking men. You don't have to have a six-pack to be a good-looking person, in my opinion.

Usually, it's women who are expected to undress and look sexy on screen. Would you consider "Magic Mike XXL" a feminist film?

Feminism is a very hard word. As a man it's tough for me to say and talk about that. I would never talk about being a feminist as I'm not a woman. And I know you can be, but I'm not going to do that now. I just know that I respect them; I think that we're doing our part for "equal opportunity objectification!"



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going
out

WHERE TO EAT, DRINK & PLAY

FIND YOUR FOURTH FUN

Still without plans for the holiday weekend? Don't worry! There are plenty of things to do, whether you're a devoted Pops fan or hoping to try something new.

TAYLOR ROBINSON

Head to the Esplanade with thousands of your closest friends

Ready to brave the crowds? Plan to get out to the Esplanade early. The annual Pops + fireworks extravaganza officially starts at 8:30 p.m., but we all know you can't get there that late. Gates open at 9 a.m., with a special new addition to the forbidden items list: You officially cannot bring a drone with you.

Sail away from the crowds with the IndependANCE Party Cruise

Celebrate America's birthday dancing the night away aboard the yacht Provincetown II. Complete with a cash bar and a live DJ for your entertainment, the cruise goes out July 3 and July 4, so you have two chances to indulge. Meet the yacht by 6:30 p.m. at 200 Seaport Blvd. in South Boston. It sails at 7 p.m. Admission starts at \$40, and tickets are available on www.eventbrite.com.

Catch the 4th of July SideWalk Sale at Wrentham Premium Village Outlets

What's more American than celebrating a holiday by shopping? Indulge in major discounts at the Wrentham Outlets — some stores are offering sales of up to 70 percent off. And just to make sure you get your money's worth, hours have been extended for the holiday weekend: On July 1-3, shop from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and on July 5, the stores will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Eat your heart out

Only just recovered from Memorial Day weekend celebrations? No room to barbecue, or it's too much work for you and yours? There are many places around town to relax and enjoy the Fourth, and let someone else do the cooking.

Celebrate the Fourth

all month long

The Fireplace

1634 Beacon St., Brookline,
617-975-1900

FireplaceRest.com

During the entire month of July, The Fireplace's chef and owner Jim Solomon celebrates the Fourth with a program of dishes favored by U.S. presidents who were born, raised or vacationed in New England. Among them are Boston's finest: John Adams, John Quincy Adams and John F. Kennedy.

Where would American

liberty be without the

French?

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BistroDuMidi.com

Without French backing, independence from the British Crown would have been a whole different story. Bistro du Midi's special four-course

prix fixe menu celebrates two events: American Independence Day and French Bastille Day. The 714 menu is named for its seven options in one prix fixe spanning four courses, including halibut crudo with salty white anchovy and olives from Provence, duck Bolognese over garganelli pasta and gianduja chocolate beignets with lavender creme. Available July 4-14.

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LibertyHotel.com

This isn't your average backyard barbecue: The Liberty's Red, White and Ewe July 4 event is held in the hotel's private, outdoor, shrubbery-lined restaurant, The Yard. Chef Bradford Rainville is cooking up a Middle Eastern-style lamb shawarma with pita, harissa and tzatziki, a lamb burger with smoked cheddar and caramelized onion, and a spicy lamb merguez served on a bun with Dijon mustard and pickled onions. Pair with some farm fresh sides, and a local draft or a cocktail or two. Chill with live music from the Conscious Reggae Band.

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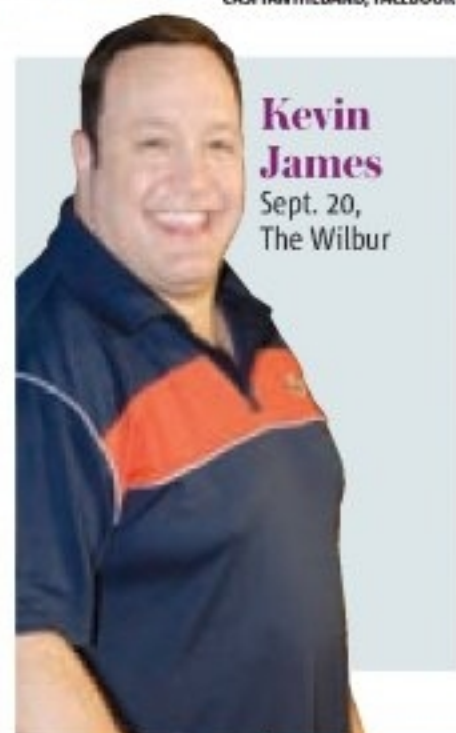
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Cymbals Eat Guitars are finding their groove

Taking a more personal tack on their third album helped the band connect with fans.

**LISA WEIDENFELD**
@LisaWeidenfeld
lisa.weidenfeld@metro.us

Cymbals Eat Guitars followed a trajectory all too familiar in the pop music scene. They released a hugely popular first album, then suffered through some changes in lineup and a sophomore album that didn't connect with fans in quite the same way. But frontman Joseph D'Agostino didn't give up on the band, and came back with a third album, "Lose," that was tremendously personal, reflecting his feelings on the death of his best friend, and the group now seems poised to reestablish itself.

A new sound

"'Lose' felt like a first record in a lot of ways," explains D'Agostino. "We had a bunch of fake success on the first record, and it was fun and real in a way because we got to go around the world and play our songs, but it was fake in that once we released a second album that wasn't superhot, there was virtually no one at the

See Cymbals Eat Guitars July 10 at House of Blues alongside Say Anything. Head to www.ticketmaster.com for details. ERIC WHITE

shows. We retained like 10 percent of the people. So just rebuilding and seeing this immediate jump in people's attention and how they engage with 'Lose' was really gratifying."

Though "Lose" has been out for a year, the material remains as fresh as ever to perform. "I think it's gotten more enjoyable to play," he says. "I think the first few months, it was more emo-

tionally taxing to do. It may sound weird, but it lessens a little bit over time and it's just more fun. The songs are more fun, compositionally. The lyrics are heavy and everything, but I think getting the record out there and making it was something I had to do."

Big influences

While pouring his heart out

onstage can be a little scary, D'Agostino says he thinks he'll stay in that more personal track going forward. "I like mystery and poetry and lyrics that are cryptic, that you have to unpack. But I also like lyrics that hit you in a very visceral way, so I'm kind of leaning on that side of things more and more."

It's not just his own preference that's influencing that, though — the group's

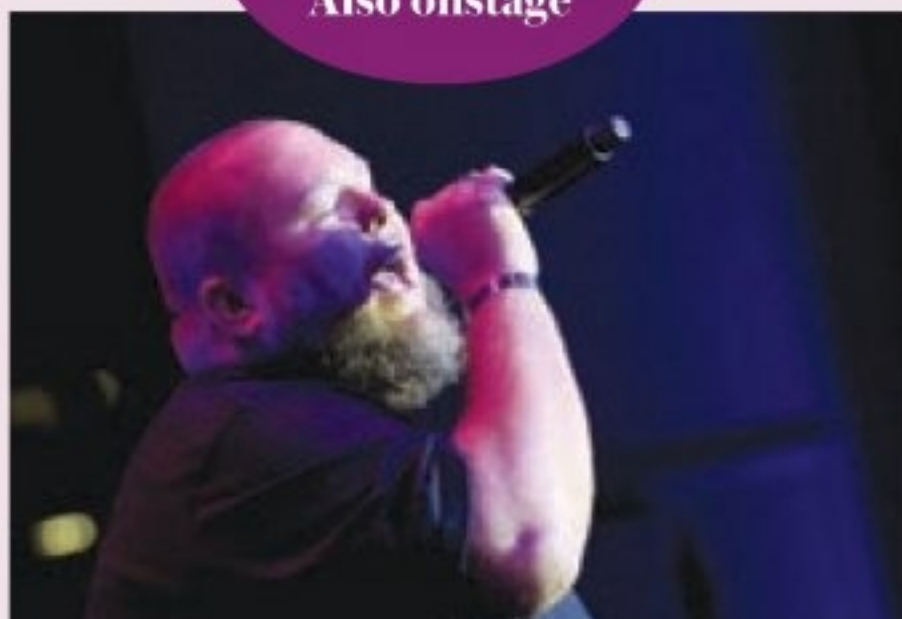
Changing lineup

The group looks a little different now than it did when it was first starting out, but D'Agostino says he feels good about the current lineup. "At this point, if anyone were to leave, I wouldn't feel like it was the same band, which I never felt before. It was always sort of, well, if I'm here, if I'm still doing it, I'm the only constant, that's the way it is."

That's not to say they aren't without their conflicts. "There are some strong personalities in our band. Mainly me," D'Agostino allows. "We all are kind of crazy in our own ways."

Despite that, he's hopeful that nothing changes. "It's definitely the cemented, solidified lineup. So hopefully everyone stays involved, or it would be a different band, I think."

recent tour mates have also made him appreciate a more personal songwriting style as well. "We toured with Bob Mould a lot in September and Brand New in October," he says. "You see the way their fans react to that and identify with it and can place their own experiences on it and relate to it. That's something I want to do more and more. You can see the difference in our crowds when we play songs from 'Lose.'"

Also onstage

GETTY IMAGES

Big Smo

Friday, 6 p.m.
Brighton Music Hall
158 Brighton Ave., Allston
\$20, all ages, 800-745-3000
www.ticketmaster.com

Country music and rap music can seem like disparate genres, but maybe they're not so far removed: Country singers, just like rappers, turn the events of their lives into tall tales, striving to maintain "cred" while simultaneously cultivating larger-than-life personas. Country rapper Big Smo is living proof—he's made a splash as of late with a style that's being called "hick hop".



LORDOTO, VIMEO.COM

Earthquake Party

Sunday, 9 p.m.
Great Scott
1222 Commonwealth Ave., Allston
\$5, 18+, 617-566-9014
www.greatscottboston.com

Earthquake Party has been a fixture of the local indie rock scene for several years now. Their sound mixes a distorted haze of shoegaze with the high energy of pop-punk and a seemingly endless reserve of short-but-sweet tunes driven by riffs and hooks that'll stick in your head like glue. Don't miss the blissfully weird Worcester band Secret Lover, also on the bill. Matthew Dinero

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Listings

MOVIES



NEW LINE / PHOTOFEST

'The Decline of Western Civilization,' Parts 1 and 2

Monday, 7 p.m.

Coolidge Corner Theater, 290 Harvard St., Brookline, \$12, 617-734-2500, Coolidge.org

Penelope Spheeris documented the early Los Angeles punk rock scene in 1981's "The Decline of Western Civilization," profiling bands like X, the Germs, Black Flag and the Circle Jerks. She followed up in 1988, profiling the notorious Sunset Strip "hair metal" scene that was in many ways punk's antithesis. The Coolidge shows both films here; they complement each other surprisingly well.

MUSEUMS

The Science Behind Pixar

Through Jan. 10
Museum of Science
1 Science Park, Boston
\$29, 617-723-2500
MoS.org

When "Toy Story" debuted in 1995, audiences were blown away by Pixar's computer-generated animation, which seemed light years (pun intended) ahead of anything that came before. Two decades and dozens of films later, it's easy to forget the intense science that goes into computer animation, but this exhibition puts it center stage, with interactive displays revealing Pixar's solutions to complex artistic challenges.

THEATER

'Revenge of the Robot Battle Nuns'

Friday, 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.
Oberon

2 Arrow St., Cambridge
\$13-\$20, 617-547-8300
AmericanRepertoryTheater.org

The Slaughterhouse Sweethearts present this apocalyptic, sci-fi, B-movie-inspired burlesque oddity featuring, according to the American Repertory Theater's synopsis, such excitements as a "lesbian spider cult," "mad science, sexy cannibal triplets, foxy hallucinations, mutations galore, and one bloody, perverse story of revenge." How's that for Independence Day weekend fare? If your answer is "perfect," you are correct.



ART

Ojos de Tango: Tango through Photographers' Eyes

Through Aug. 1
Movimiento Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston
Free, 774-275-0215
MovimientoGallery.com

The tense sexuality of the tango has made it the ultimate lovers' dance, as parodied as it is revered for its mysterious drama. This group photography show features the work of five artists who are also tango dancers themselves, allowing them to, in the gallery's word, "avoid theatrical mythologies surrounding the dance to focus on its intimacy and characteristic elegance."

PROVIDED

MUSIC

Bassekou Kouyate and Ngoni Ba

Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston
\$30, 800-440-6975
MFA.org

Malian musician Bassekou Kouyate is a virtuoso on the ngoni, a stringed instrument that served as the forerunner to the banjo. Though the 49-year-old artist has been playing since the late '70s, his debut album only appeared in 2007. Kouyate teases a prickly flurry of notes out of the tiny ngoni, creating a deep, hypnotic desert blues sound.

Boston Bands for Bernie

Friday, 8 p.m.
Middle East Upstairs
472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
\$10, 18+, 866-777-8932
TicketWeb.com

Local bands New Highway Hymnal, Moniker and Thick Wild will perform to support the presidential campaign of Bernie Sanders, 2016's indie candidate. We don't want to get too political in these listings, but we've got a hunch that a lineup of bands showing support for Ted Cruz would not be nearly as hip. They'd probably have nice rattlesnake boots, though.
MATTHEW DINARO



Montreal: The funniest city in the world

If you think laughter is the best medicine, head up to Montreal between July 8 and July 28 to take the cure at the Just for Laughs Festival.

Now in its 33rd year, Just for Laughs has built a gigantic international reputation for bringing together the biggest and best names in comedy.

Holding the record for the highest number of tickets ever sold at JFL, **Dave Chappelle** returns to perform no fewer than seven shows at Theatre Maison-neuve (July 20-23), while one of

Kevin Hart will be performing the biggest individual indoor show in the festival's history.

comedy's biggest movie stars is, rather surprisingly, making his first appearance at the festival in "An Evening with **Mike Myers**." And **Kevin Hart** is on course to be performing the biggest individual indoor show in the festival's history, at the Bell Centre on July 24.

Twelve gala events are to be hosted by **Neil Patrick Harris**,

Trevor Noah, **Norm MacDonald**, **Jane Lynch**, **Wanda Sykes**, **Sir Patrick Stewart**, **Ellie Kemper** and **Alan Cumming**, and other headliners include **Bill Burr**, **Patton Oswalt**, **Chris Hardwick**, **Jason Reitman** and "**Weird Al**" **Yankovic**.

Comedians from around the world — 19 countries, to be exact — are a big part of the festival, particularly in "The Ethnic

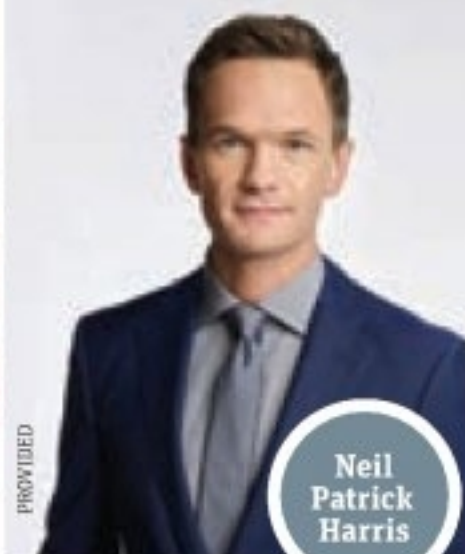
Dave Chappelle



Show" at Club Soda (July 8-19), hosted by **Alonzo Bodden**, with **Gina Yashere**, **Ahmed Ahmed**, **Frank Spadone**, **Ronny Chieng**, **Dan Naturman** and **Rachid Badouri**. British-Iranian actor-comedian, **Omid Djalili**, has his own show, "Iranalamadingdong."

There are themed shows, too, so

if you think relationship issues are a hoot, check out "Date Night" with **Brent Morin**, **Orny Adams**, **Debra DiGiovanni** and **Tom Papa**. If plain speaking has greater appeal, "The Nasty Show" has hilarious malcontents like **Mike Wilmut** and **Gilbert Gottfried**, and the oft-outrageous **Jimmy Carr** taking the stage to rip



Neil Patrick Harris

OFF-JFL

Cheap laughs

Not all of the shows are big-ticket items, and you'll find names you recognize — **Colin Jost** of "Saturday Night Live," **Wyatt Cenac** of "The Daily Show," **Ari Shaffir** and many more — at surprisingly good prices in intimate venues hosting Off-JFL events.

at various subjects in the bluntest terms. To get a peek at where Canadian humor is headed, "Homegrown Comics," hosted by **Shaun Majumder**, is a contest for up-and-coming Canadian comedians.

Alongside all the shows, you'll find plenty going on for free out on the streets of Montreal, including

street performers, family fun, music and art. The highlight, on July 21, is a free open-air concert by "Weird Al" **Yankovic**, the 2015 Grammy winner for Best Comedy Album. **INSIGHT GUIDES | PENNY PHENIX**

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A cool summer break in Burlington

With a lakefront location, a revitalized downtown, a vibrant university scene and a strong business sector, Burlington, Vermont, consistently ranks as one of the most livable cities in the country.

Lake Champlain is the epicenter for recreation. Waterfront Park and Battery Park are the town's popular outdoor hangouts with picnic tables, lots of green space and access to the 12-mile hike and bike path along a former railroad right-of-way. You can rent kayaks, rowboats and Boston Whalers, or take a sightseeing or dinner cruise. Don't miss ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center (www.echovermont.org).

The views of the lake from the observation deck alone are worth the visit, but the exhibits are as fun as they are fascinating. You can explore a submerged shipwreck remotely and help feed the resident critters.

Downtown Burlington is a gem, with more than 200 restored buildings. Preservation Burlington has a self-guided walking tour on its website (www.preservationburlington.org). Church Street Marketplace is the heart of downtown. It's the venue for events and festivals like the Festival of Fools, an annual gathering of international street performers, July 31 to Aug. 2. The plaza is surrounded by unique shops, restaurants and businesses, most of them independently owned.

The nearby enclosed Burlington

Town Center has the familiar national chains. The Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, a restored Art Deco movie palace, is the stage for theatrical performances and music concerts. Check the schedule at www.flynncenter.org.

On the University of Vermont campus, you'll find paintings by American masters and an extensive collection of Native American art and artifacts at the Robert Hull Fleming Museum. Revolutionary patriot Ethan Allen hailed from this region. His homestead is five miles north of town. You can pay your respects at his grave in Greenmount Cemetery on the

UVT campus.

Vermont's official website, www.vermont.org, has a section dedicated to Burlington and its environs.

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Horoscope

Cancer | June 21-July 22
Social gatherings will be a unique source of entertainment. Noticing how people react in various situations will give you insight into your own behavior. You'll connect with someone who wants to collaborate.

Leo | July 23-Aug. 22
Overindulgence will lead to neglect. There are lots of groups that will help you get back on track with healthy food choices and exercise. Friends will provide support and motivation.

Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Start fresh. Join a group, club or organization that will provide an interesting diversion from your daily grind. If dancing isn't your thing, try out a new sport.

Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22
Be careful what you say. You will be upset and disappointed if someone you have trusted reveals personal details. Don't allow anyone to take advantage.

Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Others will be more than willing to cooperate if you let them. Trying to do too much on your own will make you anxious. Ask for help when you need it.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Your enthusiasm for your current professional goals will make loved ones feel ignored. You should put time aside to concentrate solely on the people closest to you.

Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20
A relationship or misunderstanding will catch you by surprise. If you have misinterpreted the signals being sent your way, open up a dialogue to get to the heart of the situation.

Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18
The temptation to try something risky may be strong, but weighing the consequences ahead of time will ensure that you don't get burned.

Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20
Any sound advice or knowledge you receive now should be put to good use. Trying out new experiences and meeting new people will add to your expertise and increase your popularity.

Aries | March 21-April 20
Go over financial, legal or personal contracts in detail to avoid making a costly mistake. Time is on your side, and fact-finding will ease your mind.

Taurus | April 21-May 21
Travel or educational pursuits will broaden your outlook and inspire your imagination. If you open your eyes to new possibilities, you will find new ways to use your skills.

Gemini | May 22-June 20
Finishing home-improvement projects will give you peace of mind and some free time to help others. Your kindness and understanding will result in greater popularity. **EUGENIA LAST**

Letters to the editor

Make Trump eat his words

Donald Trump must not have paid attention in his history classes because he would have known that there were miscreants coming to America from every society. Some of those coming from England on the Mayflower had probably been incarcerated for treason and other offenses against their rulers. Has he forgotten all the ethnic mafias that thrived in America until they became legitimate businesses? I know here in Harlem, where the

Mexicans have restaurants, they are clean, polite and ready to be of service to their customers. The next time Trump is in Harlem, he should stop by a Jimbo's and see if what he said is true. Are you willing to eat your words?

ERNESTINE MORRISON, VIA EMAIL

Bad move, SCOTUS

A divided United States Supreme Court, in an opinion written by Justice Samuel Alito, decided that Oklahoma may

continue with lethal injections. (The case is *Glossip v. Gross*.) One can understand the motivation behind support of these executions: The petitioners committed horrible crimes. However, as a civilized society, we must seek to be better than those who have committed horrible crimes. As it stands, the risk of enormous suffering during an execution remains to be unacceptably high, and five of the Supreme Court justices chose to simply look the other way.

This case focused on Oklahoma's use of midazolam, a benzodiazepine drug, during

executions. As the dissent points out, with the use of midazolam, there is "substantial evidence showing that, while midazolam may be able to induce unconsciousness, it cannot be utilized to maintain unconsciousness in the face of agonizing stimuli." Therefore, during an execution, it is entirely possible that the condemned will feel excruciating pain. There is always a possibility that an innocent person will be executed. That their execution would amount to torture only adds to the barbaric nature of the act.

ILYA ABLAVSKY, VIA EMAIL

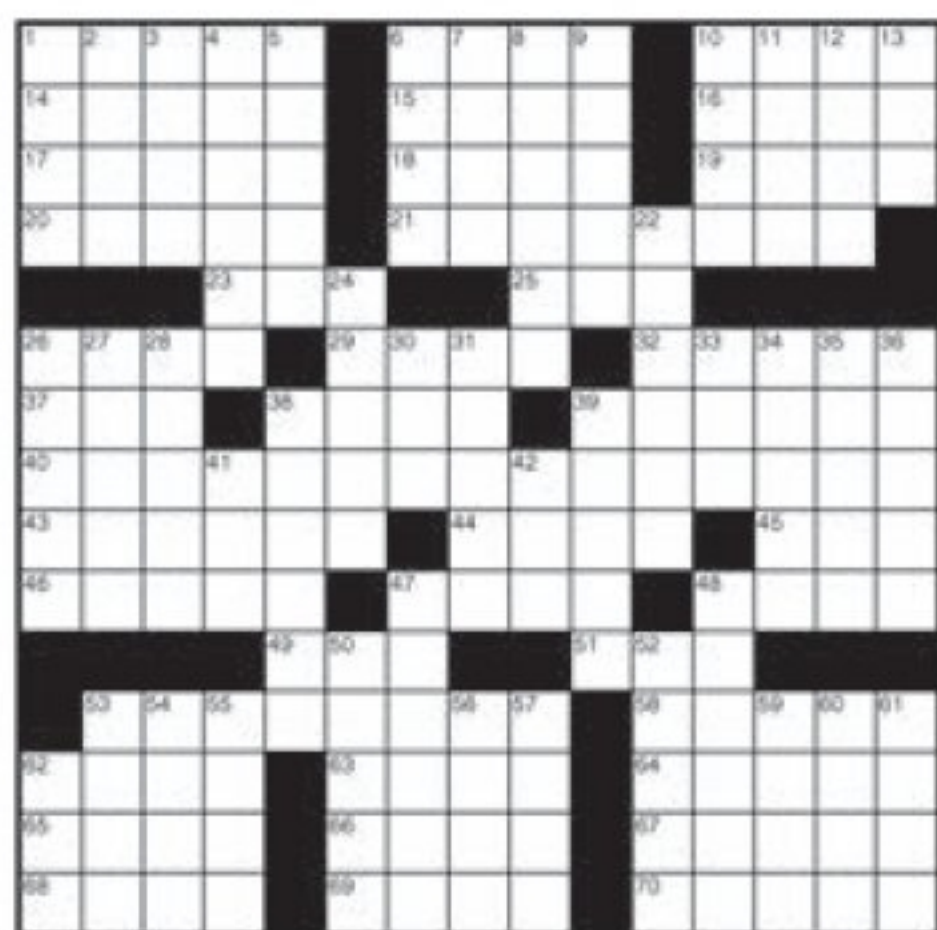
Sudoku: Easy and hard

		5		1			6	
	1		3	6		9		
6					4		5	
1				2		4		
	4	2				7	3	
		8		3				1
	9		2					8
		3		9	1		2	
	8			7		3		

	9			3	7		4	
		5			9			6
3			4	2			9	
		2		7		9		
		3				1		
		7		6		5		
	3			9	4			8
7			1			6		
	2		7	8			1	

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Crossword



Across

- 1 Wild party
- 6 Labor Dept. division
- 10 Smidgen
- 14 Pep
- 15 Blemish
- 16 Raise cane?
- 17 Bell tower
- 18 Falafel bean
- 19 Frighten a fly
- 20 It repels moths
- 21 Take the first step (2 wds.)
- 23 Part of WWW
- 25 Bridal notice word
- 26 Cow's bellow
- 29 "Lost Horizon" role
- 32 Gnat
- 37 Bullring yell
- 38 "Mondo Cane" theme
- 39 Goes rancid
- 40 Dinosaur and gnats (2 wds.)
- 43 Fission alternative
- 44 Desires
- 45 — kwon do

- 46 Last box to check
- 47 Ice sheet
- 48 Sock hop locales
- 49 Just scrape by
- 51 Lobster eggs
- 53 Bored note-takers
- 58 Portrait
- 62 Door post
- 63 Seine vistas
- 64 Like a tablet
- 65 Hodgepodge
- 66 Groovy
- 67 Between, in Paris
- 68 — noire
- 69 Screws things up
- 70 Ready to bake

Down

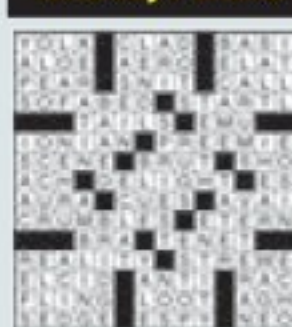
- 1 Autumn pear
- 2 Long, easy stride
- 3 In the thick of
- 4 Flop down
- 5 Over yonder
- 6 Switch positions
- 7 Chair-back piece

- 8 Cuba's capital
- 9 Plugged-in
- 10 In that case (2 wds.)
- 11 Molokai neighbor
- 12 Pony's gait
- 13 —, amas, amat
- 22 Lures
- 24 — up (inflated)
- 26 Successful, on Broadway
- 27 Walrus hunter
- 28 Cardiff natives
- 30 Electric bridge
- 31 Ms. Streep
- 33 Debt memo
- 34 Grubby
- 35 Faint flicker
- 36 Snake shapes
- 38 At anchor
- 39 Less bananas
- 41 Kind of detector
- 42 Help-wanted abbr.
- 47 Antenna
- 48 Sign after Taurus

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Yesterday's answer



- 50 "Dave" actor
- 52 Tanker
- 53 Cartoon chipmunk
- 54 Jump over
- 55 Plaintive reed
- 56 Tail end
- 57 Mach 1 breakers
- 59 Formic acid producers
- 60 "Primal Fear" star
- 61 Utopia
- 62 Income source



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Money won't buy a ring

NBA. Winning an NBA title primarily through free agency has never really been done before.

Money equals power. Money equals laziness. It's human nature to relax a tad once you finally get security at your job or land a new, fat contract. And statistics in pro sports almost always back up the idea that an athlete will perform better when he's hunting for that new deal than he will after he "gets paid."

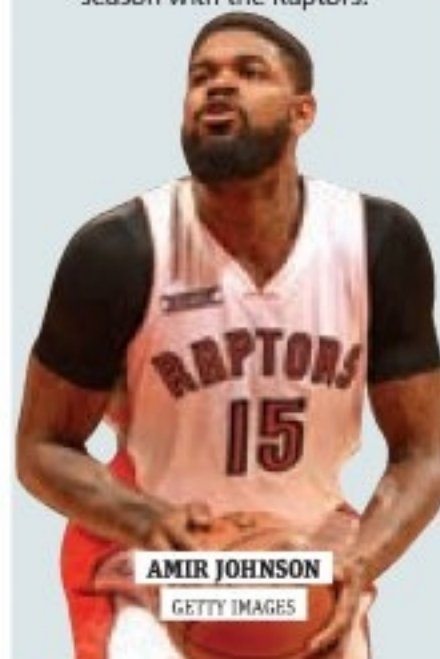
The NBA free-agent class of 2015 is a star-studded one. LaMarcus Aldridge, Marc Gasol and DeAndre Jordan are about to cash in. The teams that sign these big-name players should beware of a slight drop-off in performance, however. Going back into NBA history, championship teams are almost always centered around a player that a particular franchise drafted as opposed to a player that a particular franchise inked to a bloated deal.

The 2015 Warriors' big three of Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson and Draymond Green were all drafted by Golden State. The 2014 Spurs' big three of Tim Duncan, Tony Parker and Kawhi Leonard were all drafted by San Antonio (Leonard was traded by Indiana on draft night). Dirk Nowitzki, the centerpiece of

Dominoes dropping

The Celtics will reportedly ink forward Amir Johnson to a \$24 million, two-year contract.

- Johnson was the last American player to be selected in the NBA Draft straight from high school (2005).
- The 6-foot-9 Los Angeles native averaged 9.3 points and 6.1 rebounds per game last season with the Raptors.



AMIR JOHNSON
GETTY IMAGES

the Mavericks' run to a title in 2011, was drafted by Dallas in 1998. Kobe Bryant, the centerpiece of the Lakers' run to titles in 2009 and 2010, was drafted by L.A. in 1996. Paul Pierce, the centerpiece to the Celtics' run to the title in 2008, was drafted by Boston in 1998. Dwyane Wade, the centerpiece to Miami's run to the title in 2006, was drafted by the Heat



DeAndre Jordan is set for a monster payday. / GETTY IMAGES

in 2003.

LeBron James has obviously changed the landscape of free agency. In fact, he's a free agent right now — though it's highly unlikely he bolts from Cleveland for a second time. When James has reached the Finals recently, however, his sidekicks have been homegrown talents (Wade in Miami, Kyrie Irving this past season).

Digging deeper into what makes a champion in today's NBA, most of the complementary pieces on these teams

came to their franchises via trades and not free agency. Shaq joined Wade in Miami thanks to a trade. Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen were traded to Boston. Pau Gasol was traded to the Lakers. Jason Kidd and Jason Terry were traded to the Mavericks.

Again, the big exception centers around James, as he and Chris Bosh inked free-agent deals to join Wade in Miami. But as everyone found out during last month's NBA Finals, James is simply on a

different level than any other player in the league. He is part of a separate market.

Teams across the league will back up the Brinks trucks for Aldridge, Gasol and Jordan these next few days in hopes of soon contending for a title. But if history is any indication, making it rain on the free-agent market is highly overrated.

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3

SPORTS

MLB

Astros will test Sox

The Red Sox will open a three-game holiday weekend set with the Astros beginning Friday at Fenway. Houston (46-34) is in first place in the AL West. Justin Masterson will be seeking his second straight strong start against the Astros on Friday, while Clay Buchholz will get the ball on the Fourth of July. Eduardo Rodriguez is slated to go in the series finale.

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FANTASY BASKETBALL: THESE 2015 NBA DRAFTEES ARE WORTH A LOOK

You guys aren't going to believe this. The Knicks took the "Next Dirk" in last week's draft! By now, we've learned that it's not that easy to be the "Next Dirk." There have been 16 European lottery picks since 2002, and zero have made the All-Star game. So while Kristaps Porzingis is ticketed for heavy playing time as a rookie, he's not a player worth targeting in fantasy drafts.

Three towers

At this point in the rebuilding process, the Sixers are not in a place to draft for position. They could only take the best player available in Jahlil Okafor — even if it means that their core is three bigs. It's still easy to project Okafor for 32-35 minutes per game immediately as there are 96 minutes available at the

NFL news

The rumor that the Broncos discussed trading Peyton Manning to the Texans is not far-fetched. From Week 11 onward last season, Peyton was a sub-average quarterback — and it wasn't just because of a quad injury. If the Broncos could get a haul for a 39-year-old player, they should do it. New coach Gary Kubiak is going to reduce Peyton's volume sharply this year anyway, installing a run-based attack around C.J. Anderson.

post spots and Joel Embiid's status is unknown. Okafor is the most polished offensive post player we've seen in a long time, and he landed on a team that will run offense through him on nearly every possession. He's the odds-makers' favorite for Rookie of the Year.



D'Angelo Russell isn't a bad pickup — but he will be playing behind Kobe Bryant in Los Angeles. / GETTY IMAGES

Running in mud

The Nuggets and Ty Lawson are heading for a messy divorce. The separation papers were filed when the

team used the No. 7 overall pick on powerful 6-foot-5 PG Emmanuel Mudiay, a special athlete in the mold of Derrick Rose who will fit perfectly with the up-tempo style new

coach Mike Malone wants to play. Mudiay will have free reign from his first day in Denver as the team has one of the league's weakest rosters. Expect some flirtations with triple-doubles as he pushes for 35 minutes nightly.

La La Land

It was easy to see D'Angelo Russell's natural NBA-caliber ability at Ohio State. As an 18-year-old freshman, he averaged 19.3 points, 5.7 rebounds, 5.0 assists, 2.7 treys and 1.6 steals per game. He's below Okafor and Mudiay for fantasy because he'll have to share usage with Kobe Bryant, Jordan Clarkson, Julius Randle and possibly a big free agent. But he's still going to put his roto-friendly game on display a ton, and he could explode if 36-year-old Kobe goes down with an injury again.

MLB Pickups

Snatch these guys for good value if you can:

- **Rougned Odor, 2B, Rangers** — Too many haven't realized Odor is piping hot since his return from the minors.
- **Cesar Hernandez, IF, Phillies** — If a guy is capable of stealing six bases in four games, he doesn't have to do much else.
- **Darrell Ceciliani, OF, Mets** — Michael Cuddyer's knee injury should mercifully get him out of the lineup. Ceciliani is in for an extended run.



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A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon, situated in Boston, County of Suffolk, and formerly in the Town of Hyde Park in the County of Norfolk comprising a part of Lot #12 on a Plan of Land entitled "Plan of Division Two of Section Eight of the Real Estate & Building Co's lands in Hyde Park, Mass.", recorded with Norfolk Registry of Deeds. Said parcel is bounded and described as follows: Commencing at a point on Garfield Avenue, shown on said plan as Garfield Street, which is distant 142 feet Northwesterly from the junction of Loring Street and Garfield Avenue and running along said Garfield Avenue Northwesterly 60 feet; Thence running at a right angle and running Northwesterly 45 feet to land now or late of Blake; Thence turning at a right angle and running Southeasterly along said land of Blake 60 feet; Thence turning at a right angle and running Southwesterly by land now or formerly of Lyons, 45 feet to the point of beginning; Being the same premises conveyed to the herein named mortgagor (s) by deed recorded with Suffolk County Registry of Deeds herewith.

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